

GRANT AVENUE CONNECT PARKWAY

ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTS
CONCEPT PLAN



DESIGN INTENT

The Grant Avenue Connect Parkway is a highly connected urban corridor with multi-modal transportation improvements and connections along Grant Avenue in the heart of Springfield. This nearly three-mile “parkway” will create an attractive corridor connecting vibrant downtown Springfield to the nation’s number one best new attraction Johnny Morris’ Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium and historic Route 66, in addition to numerous neighborhoods, parks, greenways and other amenities. The corridor will improve safety, facilitate growth, integrate natural systems, and encourage civic engagement.

HEALTH & SAFETY BENEFITS

- Improves safety for all ages and abilities
- Improves safety for all modes of travel – pedestrian, bicycle, automobile, and transit
- Implements complete streets and traffic calming best practices
- Incorporates roundabout, raised, and protected intersections for pedestrian, bicycle, and motorist safety
- Increases sidewalk widths, promoting accessibility and inclusion
- Improves safety by adding countdown pedestrian and bicycle crossing signals
- Provides enhanced multi-use trail and intersection lighting
- Incorporates pedestrian and bicycle bridge crossing upgrades
- Improves physical health and active-living by connecting residences to everyday destinations

GROWTH POTENTIAL

The corridor plan includes three unique economic development areas:

- **Downtown Development** – A central core development area including an innovation district, brownfield restoration, higher education expansion, and activated greenspace opportunities
- **Neighborhood Development** – A district at the center of the Grant Avenue Connect Parkway and four neighborhoods, boasting existing anchors including Walmart and Campbell Early Childhood Center
- **Tourism Development** – A district anchored by the newly-developed Johnny Morris’ Wonders of Wildlife National Aquarium and Museum, the nationally renowned Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World flagship store, and historic Route 66

The plan also provides enhanced access to existing and new educational advancement opportunities from preschool through graduate school and beyond.

NATURE INTEGRATION

The project integrates natural systems through:

- Offering strategic low impact development best management practices
- Spurring restoration of Jordan Creek brownfield sites and completion of the Jordan Creek Greenway, creating rich urban ecology in the center of Springfield
- Initiating daylighting of Jordan Creek to meander through Springfield’s downtown urban core
- Developing accessible meadows along Fassnight Creek Greenway, allowing residents to stroll among wildflowers and butterflies
- Encouraging physical wellness with connections to parks and outdoor recreation facilities throughout the city

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

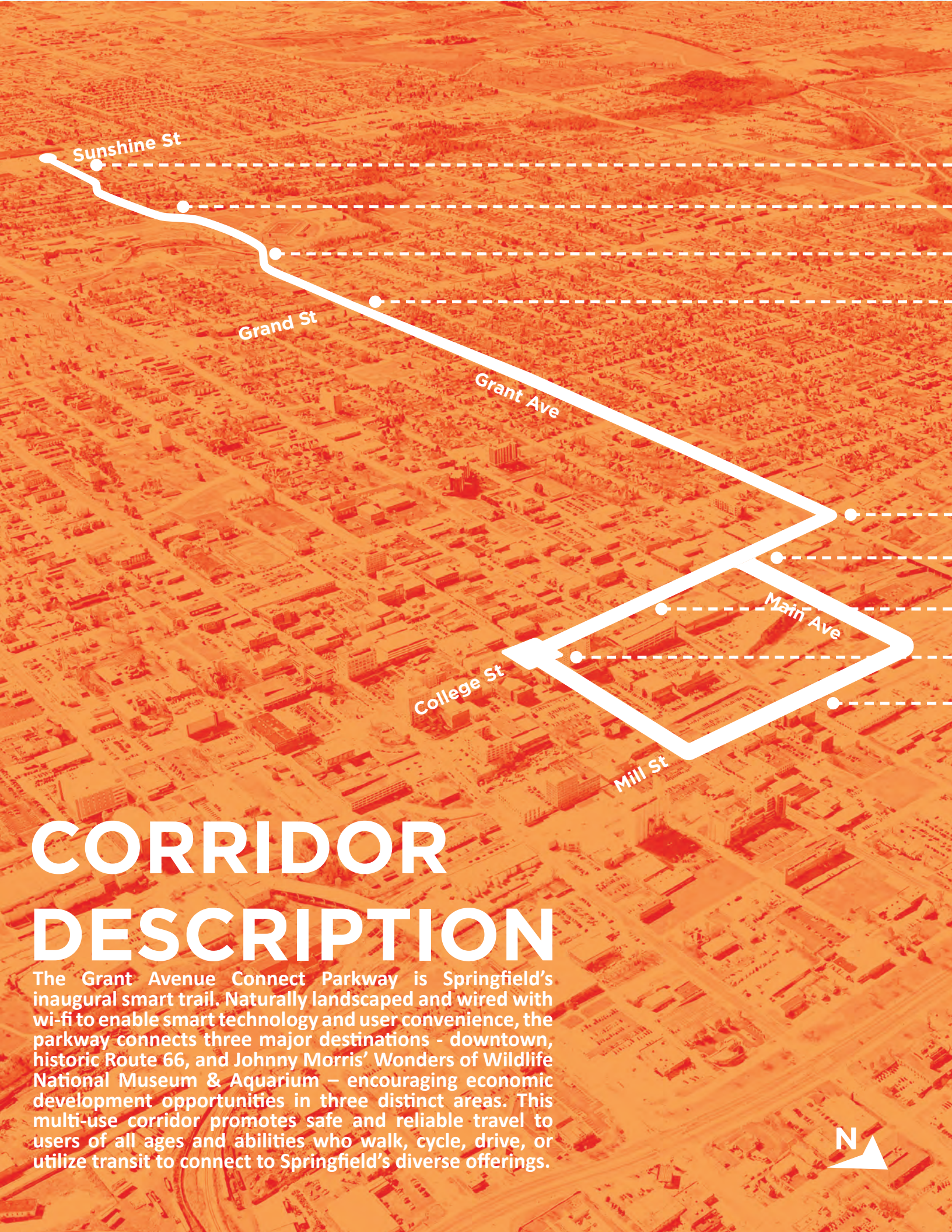
Shared green spaces along with a safe and inviting outdoor multi-modal transportation option increases civic engagement and bridging social capital by:

- Stimulating community bonds through quaint to grand gathering spaces including activated greenspace.
- Promoting culture, heritage, and tourism including historic Route 66, the Trail of Tears, Sculpture Walk Springfield, and art and history museums.
- Entertaining with a variety of music venues, restaurants, cafes, breweries, and distilleries
- Driving innovation with smart technology, trail counters, cutting edge transportation practices, an outdoor incubator, and the IDEA Commons Innovation District

»»»» OPPORTUNITY

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CORRIDOR DESCRIPTION

The Grant Avenue Connect Parkway is Springfield's inaugural smart trail. Naturally landscaped and wired with wi-fi to enable smart technology and user convenience, the parkway connects three major destinations - downtown, historic Route 66, and Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium – encouraging economic development opportunities in three distinct areas. This multi-use corridor promotes safe and reliable travel to users of all ages and abilities who walk, cycle, drive, or utilize transit to connect to Springfield's diverse offerings.





PROTECTED INTERSECTION

- » at Grant Avenue & Sunshine Street includes plaza spaces and gateway features marking the arrival at Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium and guides travelers north along the Parkway

ROUNDABOUT INTERSECTION

- » at Grant Avenue & Portland Street with pedestrian refuges, signage and high visibility crosswalks delivering children safely to Portland Elementary School

ENHANCED BRIDGE

- » creating ample space for pedestrians & cyclists, providing grade-separated connections through a lush meadow to Fassnight Creek Greenway, Parkview High School campus, Fassnight Pool, Fassnight Park, and the Springfield Skate Park

PROTECTED INTERSECTION

- » at Grant Avenue & Grand Street includes refuge islands, high visibility crosswalks, and plaza spaces

PROTECTED INTERSECTION

- » at Grant Avenue & College Street includes plaza spaces and monument features marking the arrival at the historic Route 66 Highway and Springfield's downtown. Springfield is the birthplace of Route 66

RAISED INTERSECTION

- » at College Street and Main Avenue prioritizing pedestrian and bicycle connections to the new multi-modal City Utilities Transit Center and transitioning College Street into advisory bike lanes to Park Central

ADVISORY BIKE LANES

- » on College Street from Main Avenue to Park Central prioritize bicycle use in the dense urban core while allowing vehicles to function as they currently do

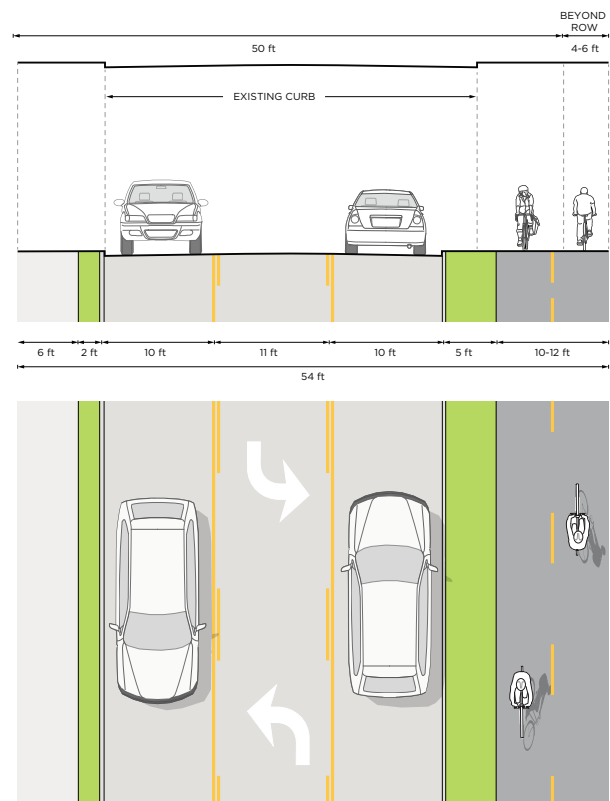
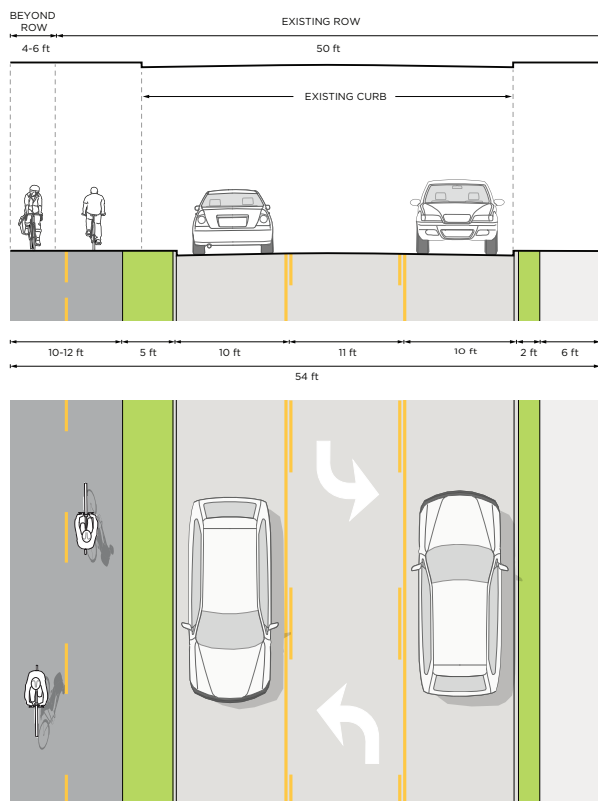
RAISED INTERSECTIONS

- » at the intersections of College & Campbell and Boonville & Olive, which are two entries to Park Central to prioritize pedestrian and bicycle access to the historic central square including plaza spaces and gateway features

CENTER CITY LOOP

- » includes College Street, Main Avenue, Mill Street and Boonville Avenue, links Springfield's vibrant downtown, Transit Center, and historic Park Central Square to brownfield redevelopment sites and the Jordan Creek Daylighting project area, also creating a hub for existing and future Ozark Greenway trails

TYPICAL SECTIONS

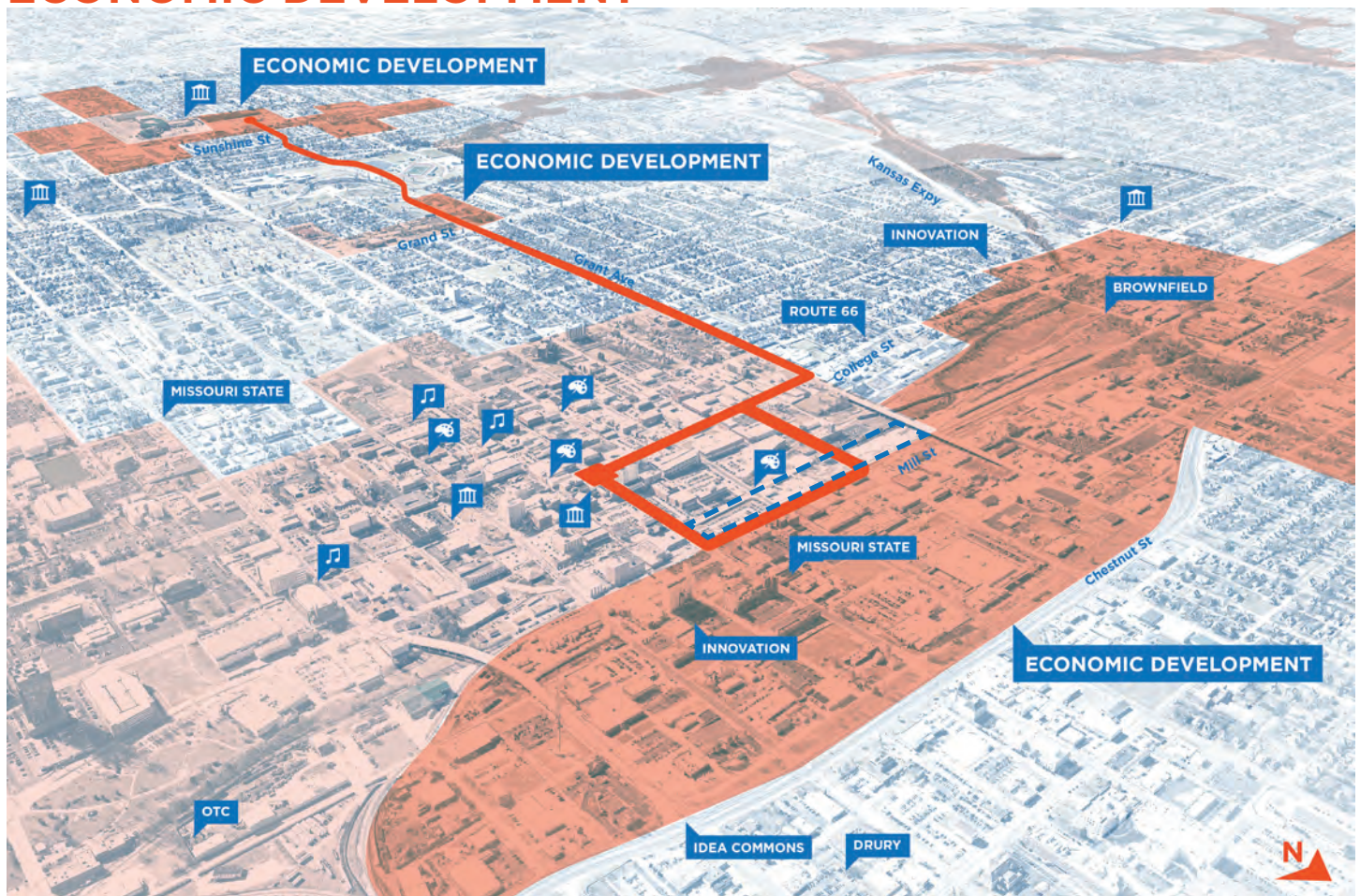


LOOKING NORTH ON GRANT AVENUE

Portions of the Grant Avenue Parkway feature a separated 10-12-foot multi-use path on the east or west side of the travel lanes. The typical sections shown above illustrate spatial allocation with minimum width and buffer zones. Trees, vegetation, hardscape, low impact development practices, amenities, and other features reflect surrounding architectural character and support adjacent land uses. Representative illustrations of focal points on the parkway can be found in the Key Connections section.

CONNECT DIAGRAMS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Connecting to Opportunity

The Grant Avenue Connect Parkway connects residents to established commercial, educational, and cultural areas. The parkway leverages these areas to help spur development in the Jordan Valley area north of downtown including the Jordan Creek Daylighting project, the West Central Neighborhood at Grant Avenue and Grand Street, and the Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium along Sunshine Street.

Grant Avenue Connect Parkway

Economic Development Area

Established Districts

New Civic Center

Museum

Art Gallery

Theater

Commerce - Innovation refers to the IDEA Commons, a technology district blending the elements of Innovation, Design, Entrepreneurship, and Art

Education - Drury University (Drury), Missouri State University (MSU), Ozark Technical Community College (OTC), and the IDEA Commons area

Culture - Historic Route 66, Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park, Jordan Valley West Meadows (brownfield). A Rutgers University study projected potential impact of Missouri net wealth generated on Route 66 nostalgia as \$79 million annually and approximately \$27 million in tax revenues.

QUALITY OF LIFE



Connecting to Nature & Wellness

The Grant Avenue Connect Parkway promotes a higher quality of life, connecting residents to everyday destinations, integrating physical activity into everyday living. Trails often encourage inactive people to become active and modestly increase the activity levels of already-active residents. Because they provide a safe environment, trails are the only place where many residents exercise. The Grant Avenue Parkway traverses the zones within Springfield in which the majority of our under-resourced residents reside.

The parkway connects residents to preventative and medical health and wellness opportunities. Preventative health options include access to nature, which building research indicates substantial health and wellness benefits, and access to a fresh food source.

-  Grant Avenue Connect Parkway
-  Open Space & Parks
-  Future Trail
-  Healthcare
-  Grocer
-  Existing Trail
-  Bicycle Network
-  Pharmacy
-  Fitness

Preventative - Creeks, meadows, woodlands, parks and recreation facilities, active transportation facilities including on-street and greenways, trails, sports fields, a variety of outdoor spaces, and fresh food sources.

Medical - Clinics, doctor's offices, and pharmacies are located within walking distance of the corridor

INNOVATION



Connecting Ideas & Technology

The Grant Avenue Connect Parkway is an innovative urban greenway/smart trail, Springfield's first. The smart trail provides wi-fi proposed to power technology, like trail counters, and operations, maintenance, and recreation applications. The parkway connects idea-generating spaces with innovative technology throughout the project area.

Smart Trail - Wi-fi powered for technology and applications

Advisory Bike Lane - Cutting edge facility prioritizing bicycles in mixed travelways with a central vehicular travel lane

Brownfield Reclamation - Heavy industrial brownfields converted to the Jordan Creek Daylight area and West Meadows Park

— Grant Avenue Connect Parkway

— Planned Innovation Development

— Jordan Creek Daylight Area

Outdoor Incubator - A segment of the Jordan Creek Daylight area with infrastructure and amenities designed for study, business or collaboration available to the public at the intersection of Downtown and the Idea Commons

Urban Ecology & Meadow - Accessible constructed natural areas imitating regional ecologies within Springfield

Other ideas or technologies are discussed elsewhere.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Connecting Natural Systems

The Grant Avenue Connect Parkway promotes the establishment of urban and naturalized environments, which support native plant and animal life and provide a variety of ecological services. The parkway intersects Fassnight Creek and Jordan Creek waterways. Greenways and paths institutionalize the areas providing access to the natural areas.

Springfield has initiated heavy industrial brownfield reclamation in the Jordan Valley area north of Downtown along Mill Street. The stream will be daylighted and a segment of the Jordan Creek Greenway will be constructed creating parkland featuring native ecosystems as well as economic

 Grant Avenue Connect Parkway

 Ecologic Restoration

development opportunities in the heart of the Center City Loop extending west.

At the bridge over Fassnight Creek, the transition connection develops into an urban meadow in the creek floodplain. Strategically designed native vegetation supports stormwater best management practices along the parkway. Interpretive signage communicates the

SAFETY



Connecting All Users & Abilities

The Grant Avenue Connect Parkway promotes safe travel for all ages, abilities, and modes including pedestrian, bicycle, automobile and transit. Complete streets and traffic calming best practices create a separated, comfortable, accessible and inclusive parkway with specific attention at intersections.

Intersection treatments address roadway crossings individually complementing adjacent land uses. Protected intersections cross major arterials separating pedestrian and bicycles for more efficient crossings. They include high visibility crosswalks, visual and physical lane narrowing, pedestrian/bike refuges, pedestrian and bike countdown signals, accessible ramps, and ample landings. Mini-roundabouts with mountable aprons, signage, enhanced

 Grant Avenue Connect Parkway

pavement markings, deflector refuge islands, and high visibility crosswalks mark intersections with children walking to school. Raised intersections in the Downtown core denote transitions from vehicle priority to advisory bike lanes prioritizing bicycles. Any lower use intersection will have narrowed lanes, bump outs and high visibility crosswalks.

Trail counters increase operational understanding providing data to support maintenance or improvements.





TRANSIT



Connecting Networks

The Grant Avenue Connect Parkway connects seamlessly into Springfield's bus/shuttle transit system with the newly constructed Transit Center and nine bus stops along the corridor. It's highly integrated into nine bus routes and within a few blocks of Missouri State University's Bear Line Shuttle.

City Utilities plans to consider modifications to the bus routes with the addition of the parkway project.

-  Grant Avenue Connect Parkway
-  City Bus Route
-  Bear Line Shuttle
-  Bus/Shuttle Stop

SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER



Connecting to the Future

The Grant Avenue Connect Parkway represents the first phase of new activated green space, in conjunction with the Jordan Creek Daylighting project. This central mall creates a bold, urban center, following an extensive and successful Jordan Valley Concept Plan, adopted by citizens and City Council. The new green space would knit the existing historic downtown with future development.

An outdoor incubator located at the crossroads between IDEA Commons and downtown embodies a lively space for studying, collaborating, researching, or presenting ideas. Flexible spaces host cozy studying or events of a couple hundred with infrastructure and amenities to facilitate any meeting all nestled into a sculpture garden.

- Development Area
- Brownfield Restoration
- Planned Urban Greenway
- Planned Trail
- Jordan Creek Daylight Area
- Restored Jordan Creek

The open lawn bordered with a naturalized Jordan Creek could host balloon glows, concerts, or family picnics, in an environment that also provides historical and ecological education.



Sunshine St

Grand St

Grant Ave

College St

Mill St

Main Ave

KEY CONNECTIONS





PROTECTED INTERSECTION

» at Grant Avenue & Sunshine Street

ROUNDAABOUT INTERSECTION

» at Grant Avenue & Portland Avenue

ENHANCED BRIDGE

» for pedestrians & cyclists

TRANSIT CENTER

» along Main Avenue

CIVIC CENTER

» along Mill Street adjacent the outdoor incubator



Protected Intersection
» Grant Ave & Sunshine St Looking South



Roundabout Intersection
» Grant Ave & Portland St Looking North



Enhanced Bridge

» Grant Ave at Fasnacht Creek Bridge Looking South



Transit Center
» Main Ave Looking North



Civic Center

» Mill Street Adjacent Outdoor Incubator Looking West



